

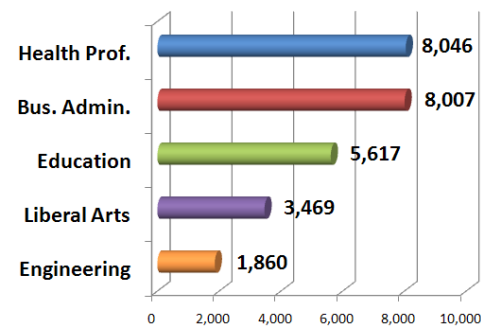
Mission Statement

- Provide reasonable access to quality education for the citizens of Alabama
- Administer various student aid programs
- Plan and coordinate higher education programs in Alabama
- Facilitate an informed decision-making policy regarding the needs of students and goals of institutions
- Provide a state-level framework for institutions to respond cooperatively to the needs of the citizens of the state

Legislative Initiatives

- ◇ Establish a PK-20 council to focus on all levels of education
- ◇ Increase the number of students served through needs-based student financial aid
- ◇ Provide support for legislative and executive branches of government for statewide education and economic interests

**All Alabama Completions
Top 5 Disciplines Awarded in 2007-2008**



*Total number of completions was 43,858

ACHE Partnerships

Educational Data Partnerships — Partners include the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education, and the Alabama Independent Colleges. Through shared resources, student information is captured and recorded from K-12 through higher education. These data are beneficial in identifying and addressing remediation, the dropout rate, and planning within the education system.

ACHE data are being used throughout the state for workforce development. Summary reports are provided to economic development/workforce agencies and chambers of commerce for industry recruitment/expansion.

Alabama State Department of Education — A formal memorandum of agreement to share student data has been signed between the ACHE and the ALSDE.

Alabama has continued to be recognized for educational data, being named one of six states to meet 10 goals in a national project to collect and monitor data on student achievement. The successful partnering between the ACHE and the ALSDE has led to Alabama being the only state with representation from K-12 and higher education on a 12-member U.S. Department of Education national data standards board.

Alabama Independent Colleges — In order to more accurately reflect Alabama's overall higher education system, the ACHE is expanding the data collection from the independent colleges to include more than the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). The additional data will include unit record, enrollment, and completion numbers to be used in the Alabama Statewide Student Database.

Longitudinal Data System Grant — The ACHE is working with the ALSDE on a \$15 million grant that would increase the availability of information on student performance. If funded, an electronic transcript system and an Alabama System for Collaborative Education Needs Data warehouse (ASCEND) would be implemented.

College Access Challenge Grant — Partnering with the ALSDE led to the awarding of this grant aimed at increasing the percentage of qualified high school students that graduate from high school and are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary/higher education and/or the workforce.

Broadband Initiative — An ACHE representative serves on the Governor's Broadband Initiative Advisory Board tasked with helping to spread high-speed Internet service across the state, particularly to rural areas. The initiative generated approximately two million dollars in grants.

Statewide Planning Advisory Council — The advisory group, created by the ACHE, had representation from all levels of education and business/industry. Input was used to develop the 2009-2014 state plan for higher education/postsecondary education in Alabama.

The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars — The ACHE coordinates student participation from Alabama institutions in this non-profit educational program headquartered in Washington, D.C.

Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) — Created in 1948 by southern governors and legislators to advance education and address economic issues in the region, Alabama is one of 16 member states participating in regional programs. The ACHE coordinates the Education Technology Cooperative, the Academic Common Market, the Electronic Campus Program, the Regional Contract Program, the Minority Doctoral Scholars Program, and the Data Exchange.

Non-Resident Institutions (NRI) — The ACHE and the Department of Postsecondary Education work cooperatively in enforcing accountability standards for instate and out-of-state institutional licensing.

Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) — A cooperative university-led effort aimed at building a robust research infrastructure to stimulate national competitiveness. The ACHE serves as the fiscal agent for EPSCoR and is represented on the steering committee.

Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance (AALGA) — Alabama's land grant universities are working together to strengthen their research efforts and to better meet the needs of the state by sharing faculty and fiscal resources. The ACHE serves as the fiscal agent for AALGA.

School and University Partnership Education Renewal Program (SUPER) — Scholarship opportunities sponsored by the Alabama Humanities Foundation for kindergarten through sixth grade teachers. The program serves to enhance teaching skills about Alabama/American history and citizenship and to encourage civic involvement by students in their community. The ACHE serves as the fiscal agent for state funds appropriated to SUPER.

Articulation and General Studies Committee/Statewide Transfer and Articulation Reporting System (AGSC/STARS) Responsible for the development and implementation of a statewide general studies and articulation program that facilitates the transferability of coursework among all Alabama public colleges and universities. The ACHE serves as the fiscal agent and on the steering committee of AGSC/STARS.

Alabama Virtual Library — Provides all students, teachers and Alabama citizens with online access to essential information and library resources. The ACHE has three board appointees including an ACHE staff member

Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL) — Headquartered at the ACHE, NAAL has demonstrated that collaboration can strengthen library and other information resources needed for education and research. The ACHE serves as the fiscal agent and is a general member to the NAAL board.

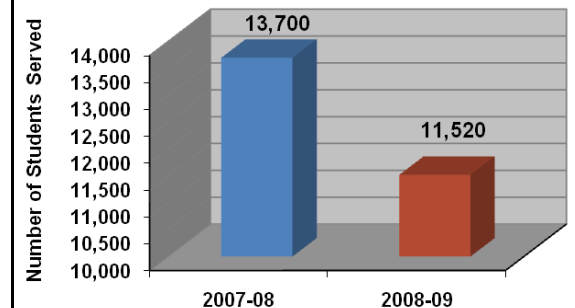
Forever Wild (Alabama's Land Trust Program) — Created to purchase and manage unique lands within Alabama, thereby securing property for public use that would be maintained as "forever wild." Three members to the Forever Wild Board of Trustees are appointed by the ACHE from eligible four-year institutions in Alabama.

Financial Aid

The ACHE is responsible for the administration of the following state level student financial aid programs:

- Alabama Student Assistance Program
- Alabama Educational Grants Program
- Alabama Teacher Recruitment Incentive Program
- Technology Scholarship Program for Alabama Teachers
- Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program
- Police Officer's and Firefighter's Survivor's Educational Assistance Program
- Chiropractic Scholarship Program
- Minority Doctoral Scholars Program (through SREB)
- Meharry College of Medicine Medical and Dental Scholarships (through SREB)
- Osteopathic Medicine Scholarships (through SREB)

**Alabama Student Assistance Program
Total Number of Students Served**



ACHE Responsibilities

- Coordinate state-wide planning efforts in higher education with K-12 and education partners
- Approve new academic programs, new units of instruction, and off-campus instruction
- Review and make recommendations concerning existing programs
- Facilitate coordination for higher education that utilizes institutional planning efforts to support a state-wide plan
- Prepare an annual budget recommendation for the Governor and the Legislature
- Review institutional facilities masterplans and report to trustees and the Legislature
- Maintain an electronic student unit record system to provide instructional information and student data to assist in decision-making

All Alabama Public Institutions 2008—2009

Total Headcount

233,393

Total # Undergraduates

202,430

Top Alabama Feeder Counties, Undergraduates

- **Jefferson**
○ 22,989
- **Madison**
○ 14,562
- **Mobile**
○ 12,914
- **Montgomery**
○ 8,583
- **Tuscaloosa**
○ 6,429

Top 5 Alabama Public Feeder High Schools

- **Bob Jones,**
○ **Madison City**
- **Hoover,**
○ **Hoover City**
- **Virgil Grissom,**
○ **Huntsville City**
- **Oak Mountain,**
○ **Shelby County**
- **Sparkman,**
○ **Madison County**



The executive director of the state's coordinating board for higher education is **Gregory G. Fitch, Ph. D.** He has been president of four colleges, including the founding of a multi-campus emphasizing the balance between workforce

development and research. He has served as commissioner of the Missouri Department of Higher Education Coordinating Board and as executive director for the Idaho State Board of Education. A Viet Nam war veteran and former police officer, Fitch began his education career in 1974 as a public school teacher.

Commission Members



Thomas P. Davis
Chair
Tuscaloosa,
7th District



Steve Shaw
Vice-Chair
Birmingham,
At Large



Charles Ball
Birmingham,
At Large



Ralph Buffkin
Mobile,
1st District



Jeff Coleman
Dothan,
At Large



Phillip C. Dotts
Huntsville,
At Large



Larry J. Hughes
Dadeville,
3rd District



Andrew G. Linn, Jr.
Birmingham,
6th District



William E. Powell, III
Montgomery,
2nd District



Sydney G. Raine
Mobile,
At Large

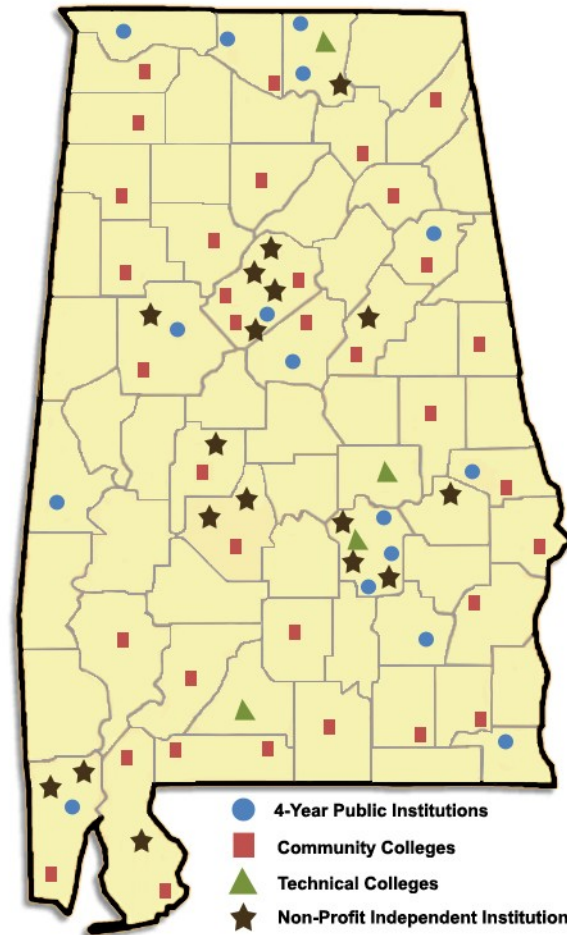


Missy Ming Smith
Huntsville,
5th District



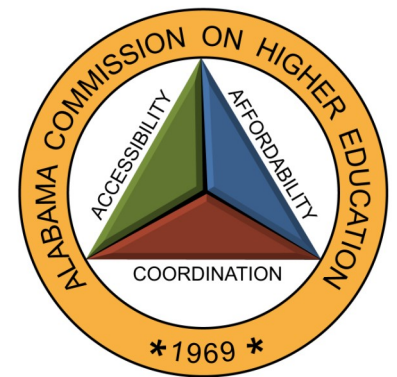
Roberta O. Watts,
Gadsden,
4th District

Alabama Institutions



March 2010

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